

## **DCS INFORMAL PROCESSES WITH FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBES**

Contact [DCS Tribal Liaisons](#) for additional information regarding informal state/tribal child support processes.

- 1) Chehalis Confederated Tribes
  - a. DCS has had a working agreement with the Tribe on accepting wage withholding notices for employees of the Tribal Casino since 2001. If the employee is a Chehalis member, before withholding earnings, the Casino sends the notice to the Tribal Court for the Judge to review for appropriateness.
  - b. DCS can also initiate and respond to cases brought into Tribal Court, as appropriate.
- 2) Coeur d'Alene Tribe (Idaho)
  - a. Since 1998 DCS has had a working agreement with the Tribe concerning the establishment of paternity and child support and the enforcement of child support in Tribal Court.
  - b. The DCS Tribal Claims Officer has filed child support actions and has appeared on child support cases in Tribal Court.
  - c. DCS and the Tribe continue discussions concerning entering into a cooperative agreement.
- 3) Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
  - a. DCS has a working agreement with the Tribe to accept wage withholding notices for all Casino employees. The Tribe reviews each withhold with the employee and asks them to contact DCS if the employee disagrees with the amount of the notice.
- 4) Lummi Nation
  - a. DCS refers paternity cases to the Lummi Nation IV-D Program via an informal referral process.
  - b. DCS continues to work with the Tribal IV-D program on processes for other types of referrals (i.e. establishment, enforcement, modification) to their program.
- 5) Makah Tribe

Judge Shue from the Makah Tribal Court is giving full faith & credit to child support orders presented by custodial parents, and is entering withhold orders if appropriate for current support only.
- 6) Muckleshoot Tribe

Under an informal working agreement, the Tribe honors wage withholding actions for all Casino and Bingo employees and accepts wage assignments for employees of the Tribe.
- 7) Nisqually Tribe

The Nisqually Tribe will honor voluntary wage assignments submitted by DCS on behalf of non-custodial parents who work for the Tribe. If a parent will

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not voluntarily agree to a wage assignment, DCS appears in Tribal Court to obtain a wage withholding order for the parent per our formal agreement with the Tribe.

- 8) Nooksack Tribe
  - a. DCS has worked with the Tribe and their Tribal Court on ways to address child support since the Tribe amended it's Domestic Relations Code in 2001.
  - b. DCS and the tribal court work together to ensure appropriate orders are established. DCS, at the request of the court or the parties, prepares worksheets for child support hearings at Nooksack.
  - c. The Tribe is exploring the possibilities of pursuing Tribal TANF funding. DCS will work with them to address child support services on Tribal TANF cases.
- 9) Pt. Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
  - a. DCS has had a working relationship with the Tribe since 1994.
  - b. After the Tribe opened its Tribal TANF Program in 1998, DCS and the Tribe continued working together to address child support on tribal TANF Cases.
  - c. In 2002 the Tribe began operating a Tribal IV-D program and DCS has continued working with them to address referrals and reciprocal services.
- 10) Puyallup Tribe
  - a. DCS has had a working relationship with the Tribe since 1992. They have worked on DCS Tribal Policy Initiatives, consulted on tribal cases, brought cases into Tribal Court, and responded to cases initiated in Tribal Court.
  - b. Since 1997, when the Tribe received a federal Special Improvement Project (SIP) grant, DCS has worked with them on the development of their Tribal IV-D Program.
  - c. DCS currently has a Tribal IV-D Policy and Procedure (Canary Notice CN-235) developed with the assistance of the State/Tribal Workgroup, which includes members of the Puyallup IV-D program. The policy is available on the DCS Internet Website at [www.dshs.wa.gov/dcs/tribal/doctoc.shtml](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dcs/tribal/doctoc.shtml).
  - d. There is weekly contact between the two programs, as DCS continues to send child support referrals to the Tribe. The DCS Claims Officer appears in Tribal Court to represent the state's financial interests when necessary.
- 11) Quinault Nation
  - a. An informal process exists for the Tribe to refer Tribal TANF cases to DCS for enforcement of child support.
  - b. In 2001, the Tribe adopted a resolution that allows DCS to initiate wage withholding notices to the Quinault Beach Resort on non-Tribal, non-member employees. If a Tribal member employee is identified, DCS can file an action in Tribal Court to request wage withholding.
  - c. DCS is working with the Tribe on a process to identify appropriate cases and refer them to Tribal Court.
- 12) Spokane Tribe
  - a. DCS has been engaged in negotiations with the Tribal TANF program on child support services since they began finalizing their TANF Program. The Tribe

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requests that DCS continue to provide child support services on state-turned-Tribal TANF cases.

- b. DCS hopes to negotiate a Tribal TANF Agreement concerning Tribal TANF child support services.

13) Squaxin Island Tribe

The Tribe honors wage withholding for non-tribal members and some tribal members at their Casino. A letter is sent to the Casino along with the wage withholding notice. If the employee is a member of a Tribe, Casino payroll forwards the letter and withholding notice to the Tribal Attorney who reviews it with the Casino employee to determine how much money will be withheld.

14) Stillaguamish Tribe

- a. The Tribe has a long-standing informal agreement with DCS to accept wage withholding notices on tribal employees.
- b. DCS works closely with Stillaguamish ICW in providing services to tribal members.

15) Suquamish Tribe

The DCS Claims Officer appears in Tribal Court primarily in cases where the State has a financial interest. DCS will receive notice from the Clerk of the Court for hearings where the State is a party. DCS may initiate court actions to include but not limited to attaining enforcement or support establishment orders. DCS and the Suquamish Tribal Court have a longstanding relationship based on the shared common goal of ensuring that the children in this region are supported.

16) Swinomish Tribe

- a. The Swinomish Tribe has been a working partner with DCS since 1994.
- b. Tribal Resolution allows DCS wage withholding for non-Indian NCP's.
- c. Enforcement in Tribal Court for collection against members of other tribes who are employed by the Casino. Paternity and child support establishment in Tribal Court.
- d. The DCS Tribal Claims Officer appears in Tribal Court, as needed, to address child support issues on IV-D cases.

17) Tulalip Tribes

- a. DCS has had a working relationship with the Tribe since 1995.
- b. In 1996, DCS and the Tribe negotiated a tribal child support agreement which was passed as a Tribal Council Resolution. The resolution permitted DCS to appear in tribal court to establish, enforce and modify child support.
- c. The Tribe has decided to place a hold further exploring IV-D Funding, and will instead pursue Tribal TANF.
- d. DCS provides regular outreach services on the reservation and consults with the Tribe on individual cases.
- e. Over the years, DCS has appeared in tribal court on numerous IV-D cases.

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18) Upper Skagit Tribe

- a. DCS has the ability to take cases to the Upper Skagit Court for registration as long as they meet the tribal code criteria of order being one year old or less.
- b. DCS provides monthly outreach to the Tribe with Upper Skagit ICW.

19) Yakama Nation

- a. Since 1991, DCS has been working with Tribe to address Child Support services.
- b. DCS is currently providing outreach on the reservation.
- c. DCS responds to IV-D cases brought before the Tribal Court, when appropriate.